

More Information

About the November 6, 2012 General Election Results

1. When do these results become final?

The election night returns reported on the "Live Election Returns" area of this site are **now official**, but recount and contest proceedings may be ordered in some state or judicial races. The results represent what is known as the "Election Night Canvass."

A. Closing the Polling Places:

Indiana state law requires counties to begin counting votes cast at the general election immediately after the polls close at 6 p.m., prevailing local time.

In accordance with prevailing local time, the polls in the 12 counties of Gibson, Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Perry, Porter, Posey, Spencer, Starke, Vanderburgh, and Warrick close at 7 p.m., Indianapolis time. The polls in the remaining 80 Indiana counties close at 6 p.m., Indianapolis time.

In most counties, ballots are counted first at local polling places by precinct election officials. These officials then travel on election night to a central counting location (often the county courthouse) to report the precinct election results to the county election board.

In other counties, ballots are not counted by precinct election officials, but are returned to the central counting location (often the county courthouse), where each precinct's ballots are counted by the county election board or designated county election board employees.

In many Indiana counties, *absentee ballots* are counted at a central location in the county, and the results from those ballots added to results tallied by precinct election boards.

B. Reports from County Election Boards:

To help this office provide election night returns to the public, each county election board has been asked to forward the general election results for federal and state level candidates to the Indiana Election Division.

Complete or partial returns from each county will be posted continuously on election night as received from each county. Data entry will cease at midnight, and resume the morning after election day until reporting is complete. **Please remember to refresh your browser for the latest returns.**

C. Provisional Ballots, Corrections, and Recounts:

To comply with federal law and Indiana law, county election boards may be revising election night vote totals to include votes cast on “provisional ballots.”

A provisional ballot is cast by a voter whose eligibility to vote is questioned. If the county election board finds that the voter was in fact eligible to vote, then the provisional ballot cast by that voter is counted, and candidate totals will be revised accordingly. All valid provisional ballots must be counted by 3:00 p.m., local time, November 16, 2012.

After completing the county canvass, each county election board includes a complete set of certified returns in its minutes. A county election board may vote to correct any error in the election night canvass through noon, November 26, 2012. After this deadline, these election returns are subject to further revision if a recount is conducted.

A recount for a local office occurs after a petition for a recount is granted by a court. A recount for a state level office occurs after a petition for a recount is granted by the state recount commission. For information about the State Recount Commission, see <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2919.htm>

A recount or contest for an election to a state legislative office must be completed by December 20, 2012. The State Recount Commission may extend this deadline to another specific date if the Commission makes a finding that there is good cause to do so.

A recount for election to a local office or school board office must be completed by December 20, 2012. The local court may extend this deadline to another specific date if the court makes a finding that there is good cause to do so.

There is not a specific deadline in Indiana law to for the State Recount Commission to complete a recount for an election to a federal office or any other statewide office (*other than Secretary of State, which is not on the ballot in 2012*).

After the completion of any proceedings involving recounts, the election results from the general election become final and official.

2. Which general election results can be found on this web site?

The election night returns presented on this site includes votes cast in the election for Electors for President and Vice-President of the United States; for U.S. Senate; for U.S. Representative; for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Indiana Attorney General and State Superintendent of Public Instruction; for Indiana State Senator; for Indiana State Representative; and for Judge of a Circuit, Superior, or Probate Court.

These general election results are voluntarily reported by a county to the Indiana Election Division for publication on this web site.

3. What about general election results for local offices?

A candidate seeking election to a “local level” office, such as circuit court clerk, a county office, or a town office elected in 2012 must file the candidate’s declaration with the local circuit court clerk (or county election board).

The general election results for these candidates are not reported to the Indiana Election Division until approximately November 19, 2012, the deadline for filing a post-election report. The county post-election reports are available in paper form for inspection and copying at the Election Division, but are not available in electronic form, or currently published on this web site.

However, some counties do publish their own election night results on county web sites for some of these offices. The Election Division links to these county web sites can be found at <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2920.htm>.

If a county does not publish its results on a web site, then contact the appropriate county election board for general election results information. Contact information is found at <http://www.indianavoters.in.gov/PublicSite/Public/FT1/PublicContactLookup.aspx>